MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Chitharanjan, The Minister wants to say something.

श्री शरद यादव: कांगड़ा के बारे में जो सवाल उठाया था, वह इतना अलग था कि उसकी जानकारी मेरे पास नहीं थी। दस करोड़ रुपए से रनवे एवं नई टर्मिनल बिल्डिंग बनाई जा रही है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

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## *WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUETIONS*

### Tourist Inflow to North-Eastern States

*23. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign and domestic tourists who visited various places of NER States during the last three years;

(b) the target fixed by each State for tourist arrival during this period;

(c) the details of foreign exchange earned from the foreign tourists during this period; and

(d) the steps taken to attract foreign tourists in India specially in Arunachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE - (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) According to the statistics available from the State Governments, the estimated number of foreign tourists and domestic tourists who visited various places of North-Eastern States during the years 1997, 1998 and 1999 are as follows:

| Year | Estimated Number of Tourists visited North Eastern States | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Domestic | Foreign | Total |
| 1997 | 523246 | 2337 | 525583 |
| 1998 | 540752 | 2935 | 543687 |
| 1999 | 579788 | 3086 | 582874 |

(b) Target for tourist arrivals are not fixed.

(c) The estimated foreign earnings from tourism for the country during last three years is as follows:

| Year | Estimated foreign exchange earnings (Rs. In crores) |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 10725.64 |
| 1998 | 11950.78 |
| 1999 | 13041.81 |

(d) Various steps taken to attract foreign tourists to India include development and improvement of tourist infrastructure facilities, publicity and marketing efforts in the overseas markets through overseas tourist offices, strengthening institutions of human resources development, use of information technology and encouraging private investments in tourism sector including hotels. The development of tourism is mainly undertaken by the State Governments/UTs. However, to supplement their efforts, Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance to them for the projects/schemes identified every year in consultation with them. During the year 1999-2000, an amount of Rs. 239.28 lakhs has been sanctioned to the State of Arunachal Pradesh for various projects including development of infrastructure and printing of publicity material etc.

**Complaints Against M/s Apex Financial Service Pvt. Ltd., Delhi**

†* 24. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, it is a fact that the complaints regarding the irregularities have been received against M/s Apex Financial Service Pvt. Ltd., Delhi;

(b) whether the income tax department had conducted investigations there into and whether the Ministry of Finance had issued any notice to the company on any aspects of irregularities; and

(c) the efforts made by Government to get the amounts of money repaid by the company to the people in view of all the above facts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Income-tax Department has not received any such complaint. however, in the income-tax assessment of the company for Assessment Year 1997-98, investment of Rs. 1.15 crores by the alleged shareholders was not found to be genuine and was held to represent company's own unaccounted money. Before coming to this conclusion notices had been issued to the company to prove the identity and credit worthiness of the shareholders.

†Origional notice of the question was received in Hindi.